(d) The steps taken by the Government to bring down the rat of inflation include a substantial reduction in fiscal deficit, check on expansion of money supply to curb effective demand, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, streamlining of the Public Distribution System, providing incentives for higher production and savings, and strict action against boarders and profiteers.

Counter Trade Agreements

2575. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of counter trade commitments obtained against import of various canalised items through MMTC during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have faced any difficulty in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any policy on counter trade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the list of items eligible for counter trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMRCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Counter trade against import of canalised items by MMTC during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	*Counter trade Commitments (Rs. Crores)*
1988-89	52.68
1989-90	176.70
1990-91	295.90

(b) and (c). It is not always possible to build counter trade on all canalised imports especially in commodities which are in seller's markets or for which possibility of diversifying the sources of imports in limited.

(d) and (e). Counter trade arrangement are encouraged to increase exports of non-traditional and slow moving export items finalised from time to time.

Additional Dearness Allowance to employees working in Tourist Centres

2576. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give additional dearness allowance to Central Government employees working in tourist centres in view of high cost of living there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to help these employees to tide over the increasing cost of living at these tourist centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: (a) to (c). Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is sanctioned with reference to the percentage increase in 12-monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) Base 1960=100) over the average index of 608. The rates of dearness allowance for employees in different pay groups are uniform in all places in the country and do not depend on high cost of living or otherwise of any particular place. In view of the above, the question of compensating Central Government employees working in tourist centres over and above what is admissible at present does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Sub-office of CCI and E in Bharuch District of Gujarat

2577. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a sub-office of CCI&E in Bharuch district of Gujarat where various types of industries have been set up and whose products are being exported to several countries;

(b) if so, when it is likely to start functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). No such proposal is under consideration.

[*English*]

Financial/Technical Collaboration

2578. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by the Reserve Bank of India for financial/technical collaborations during 1990-91;

(b) the number of applications cleared by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). RBI received a total of 183 applications upto 30.11.1991, out of which 130 have been cleared. The total foreign investment involved in the approved cases is US $ 37.352 million.

Conversion of Bangalore-Coimbatore Road into National Highways

2579. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vohra Panel has recommended for the conversion of Bangalore-Coimbatore road via Mysore and Nanjangud-Ooty road into National Highways on priority basis; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Renewal of Export House Certificates

2580. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1430 on January 4, 1991 and state:

(a) the number of renewals granted out of the applications received during 1989-90 for renewal of previous Export House Certificates which expired on March 31, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990 separately;

(b) the number of cases out of them rejected during the same period and the number of cases pending for disposal; and

(c) the number of cases under appeal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The requisite infor-